

Amazing Inventions

Learn about some bright ideas.

What would life be like without **inventions**? It's hard to imagine. An invention is a new thing or idea. It can change the way people live. Some inventions solve problems and make life easier. Other inventions make life more fun (or tastier!). Read about some great inventions.

An Idea That Stuck



The next time you use a Band-Aid, you can thank Earle Dickson. He invented the ready-made bandage in 1920. He wanted to help his wife, who often cut her fingers while cooking.

At the time, people had to cut pieces of gauze and tape to make bandages. They were hard to use. Dickson's simple idea was a big success. Today, ready-made bandages come in many shapes, sizes, and colors.

A Tasty Invention



Did you know that chocolate chip cookies were a mistake?

Ruth Graves Wakefield created them in the 1930s. She was mixing a batch of chocolate cookies and was out of baking chocolate.

She decided to chop

up a bar of semisweet chocolate instead. When the cookies were done, the pieces of chocolate had not melted! They had kept their chip form in each cookie.



Safety



inventing a traffic cone, a pole with signs to stop and go. The colors yellow, and green are based on

Ideas That Pop

Inventing is not just for adults. Kids from across the country recently showed off their great ideas. They took part in a contest to create a new use for Bubble Wrap. Bubble Wrap is a packing material that has air-filled plastic bubbles. It is used to protect objects that are breakable.

Andy Boler, age 10, from Texas, used Bubble Wrap to make a cover for plants. It protects plants from the cold. "I like building things that could help people," he says.

Other inventions in the contest included a kite-making kit and a wrist cushion. Some of the kids' inventions may be turned into real products.

"We have very few rules," says a contest spokesperson. "One of the main goals is to get young students thinking."



Here is Andy Boler with his Bubble Wrap invention.

First

Before the 1920s, people often got into traffic accidents. One day, Garrett Morgan saw a bad accident between a car and a horse-drawn carriage. He decided to solve the problem by a traffic signal. It was his saying when Today's red, yellow, and green traffic lights are based on Morgan's idea.



Inventions: John Callow, cookie boy; Sean Justice/Corbis; traffic light; Brand X/SuperStock; Blind-Aid gift; Marc DeGruen/Gaity Images; Band-Aids; Shutterstock; Bubble Wrap; Corbis/Jupiter Images

THINK ABOUT IT! What other inventions can you name? Which of those inventions do you think is the most important?

Who Invented the Popsicle?

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the paragraph below. Then fill in the circle for the best answer to each question.

A Tasty Invention

Did you know that Popsicles were once called Epsicles? They were named after Frank Epperson. He invented them by accident in 1905 at the age of 11. One night, he left a drink outside in the cold. The drink had a stirring stick in it. The next day, he saw that the drink had frozen around the stick. Epperson began selling his "Epsicles" in 1923. At that time, they came in seven flavors.



Here is Frank Epperson with his granddaughter in 1973.

1. What name did Frank Epperson give his invention?
☐ (A) Epsicles ☐ (B) Popsicles
2. What happened when he left his drink outside?
☐ (A) It froze. ☐ (B) It spilled.
3. When did he start selling his frozen treats?
☐ (A) 1905 ☐ (B) 1923
4. How many flavors of Epsicles did he sell?
☐ (A) seven ☐ (B) nine



WHISKERS'S™ CORNER

Dear Kids,

Mindy is telling some kids that her mother invented Bubble Wrap. I know she is not telling the truth. What should I do?

Whiskers



To e-mail Whiskers: www.weeklyreader.com/whiskers

LAST LAUGH

Q: Why did the chocolate chip cookie go to the doctor?

A: It was feeling crummy!

WORD POWER

A **plural** noun names more than one person, place, or thing. Write the plural form of each noun below. We've done one for you.

invention _____ inventions _____

cookie _____

idea _____

TRY THIS! The plural noun for the word below follows a different rule. Write the plural form.

life _____

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